I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No.EV 377 652 386, in an envelope addressed to: MS Missing Parts, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 15, 2004

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Docket No.: WSV-2597

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Phillip R. Cunningham

Application No.: 10/612224

Filed: July 1, 2003

MAR 1 5 2004

Art Unit: 1616

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR THE

IDENTIFICATION OF ANTIBIOTICS THAT ARE NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO ANTIBIOTIC

RESISTANCE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Missing Parts Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.